The life of Joseph

The life of Joseph is one of the most amazing stories I have ever read. One must go back to Jacob, Joseph's father, to understand what really took place. Jacob had made a deal with Laban, his future father-in-law, concerning Rachel. He was to work seven years and then marry Rachel. Laban tricked Jacob and switched Leah, the oldest daughter, instead of Rachel. Jacob never loved Leah but they had several children. After another seven years Jacob got to marry Rachel. At first she was barren and couldn't have children. When God finally blessed her with a child, she had Joseph.

No parent should have favorites, but Joseph was Jacob's favorite. Even though Joseph was his dad's favorite, there was truly something special about this young boy. It was obvious God had his hand on him. Joseph was despised by his brothers because of his great abilities. It all came to a head when his brothers threw him in the pit. Not knowing what they should do, they then sold Joseph into slavery to a caravan passing by. He was taken to Egypt to be sold.

The story takes Joseph from the pit to the pinnacle in Egypt where he ended up in the palace as Prime Minister, only answering to Pharaoh. He was elevated to this posi-



JUST A THOUGHT
Rev. Tom Mansbarger



tion because of his ability to interpret dreams. The journey wasn't easy, but Joseph never faltered. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world, the salt of the earth," and Joseph was just that, even to the pagan Egyptians.

Due to this new position, Joseph had the means and authority to save his own people. After twenty years of believing his son dead, Jacob was re-united with his son. The family was moved to Goshen where they had everything they needed. Life was now easy because of Joseph.

After many years had passed, as Joseph was on his deathbed, he is now concerned about going home. Life in Egypt had been great, but it wasn't home. He makes a star-

tling request. He could envision his people going home to Canaan, and he wanted them to take his bones with them when they left. He didn't want his bones in foreign soil in a pagan land. He wanted them to be at home where his heart was. What an amazing statement from a dying man.

This is now a wonderful story of the bones of Joseph. We see a portrait of a great man. Now, on his death bed, we see a commanding and guiding intelligence still actively working. Joseph was still a man of strong and noble character, and he still exhibited a unique personal touch. You could say that he was a self-made man because his life was one long contest. With great difficulties, he overcame them all. He was truly made by God, and what a creation he was. His greatness was obvious by his moral character. He lived just exactly what he believed, nothing wavering. He was not a warrior, but a man of insight and foresight. He was a man of principles. Faith ruled and controlled his character. In the country of pyramids he ruled and died. A man that had ascended to great power in the land

of the Nile.

Beginning in Genesis
37 we read about the life
of Joseph. There are so
many things we can learn

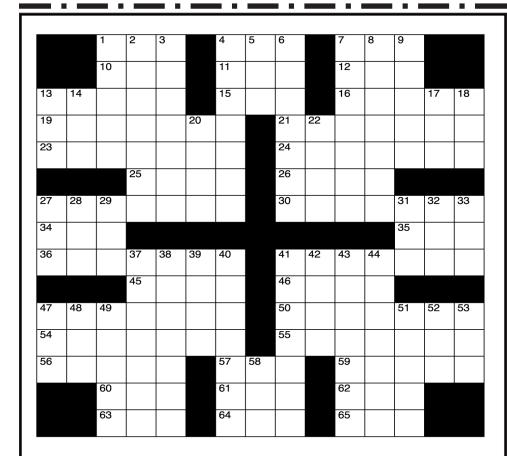
from his life that can help us on our journey. Even though life has it's twists and turns, ups and downs, God is still on the throne and He is still calling the shots. I get great satisfaction studying Joseph's life and his ability to be obedient to his God, Jehovah. It should be a powerful lesson to each of us who read the story.

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Hebrews 11:22

Crossword and Sudoku answers, page 14

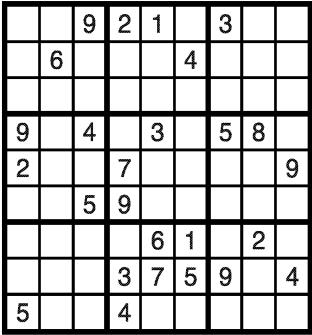


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop with an ax
- 4. Where a bachelor lives
- 7. Indicates near
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. It's just a number
- 12. Type of bread
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
- 16. A way to use up
- 19. Singular event
- 21. Home of Disney World
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Most insightful
- 25. Consult
- 26. In addition
- 27. Agents of downfall
- 30. Organizations
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Bar bill

- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dish soap
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Newspaper bigwigs
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Support
- 56. Popular sportcoat fabric
- 57. Take hold of59. Pre-Mayan civilization
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. Wheeled vehicle62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Cold War player (abbr.)
- 64. Pitching stat
- 65. Attempt

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?
Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Arousing intense feeling
- 3. Elks
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Before the present
- 6. Figures out
- 7. Infinite
- 8. A low wall
- 9. Silly
- 13. Political organization
- 14. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 17. Divisions of the psyche
- 18. Denial
- 20. Ancient Iranian person
- 22. Count on27. Popular sports league
- 28. Water (French)29. Partner to cheese

- 31. When you hope to get there
- 32. Angry
- 33. One point east of due south
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew
- 39. French wine grape
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships take on cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. Popular average
- 49. Products
- 51. A type of bear
- 52. Utilize
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river